

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A circuit comprising:

 a capacitor formed with a dielectric including the dielectric encasing elements of the circuit;

 a detector to detect changes in the capacitance of the capacitor; and approximately parallel conductors located proximate to circuit elements to protect from tampering; and

a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the capacitor.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The circuit of claim 1 in which the detector further comprises:

a disable output terminal to provide a signal to disable an operation of the circuit.

5. (Currently Amended) A circuit comprising:

a detector comprising a capacitor formed from conductive elements arranged such that removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of the conductive elements results in assertion of a signal disabling one or more operations of the circuit, the conductive elements arranged approximately parallel and proximate to elements of the circuit to protect from tampering; and

a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at one of the conductive elements.

6. (Original) The circuit of claim 5, the detector adapted to assert the signal as a result of a change in a capacitance of the capacitor.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

disabling one or more operations of a circuit upon detecting a change in a capacitance resulting from removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of conductive elements of the circuit; and, the change in capacitance resulting from removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of approximately parallel conductors located proximate to circuit elements to protect from tampering;

forming a capacitor using approximately parallel conductors located proximate to circuit elements to protect from tampering; and
comparing a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the capacitor.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:
a processor coupled to a memory by way of a bus; and
the processor comprising a detector, the detector comprising a capacitor formed from conductive elements arranged such that removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of the conductive elements results in assertion of a signal disabling one or more operations of the circuit, the conductive elements arranged approximately parallel and proximate to elements of the processor to

protect from tampering; and a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at one of the conductive elements.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, the detector adapted to assert the signal as a result of a change in a capacitance of the capacitor.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled)